

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-80 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 18, 21 and 51, being the independent claims. Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 7-13, 15-19, 21-29, 31-34, 36-37, 39-40, 43-65, 68-74 and 76-80 to improve clarity and remove multiple dependencies from the claims. Claim 81 has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 17-39, 43, 44, 46-48, 50-63, 64-69, and 76-79 have been withdrawn. Support for these amendments may be found throughout the specification as filed. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.


Applicants note that another preliminary amendment was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in the above-captioned case on June 5, 2009. However, the same day, a restriction requirement directed to the originally filed claims was mailed from the USPTO. In order to ensure that the amendments to the claims indicated above are entered by the Examiner, Applicants are filing this preliminary amendment concurrently with the response to the restriction requirement.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for examination. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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